

# SENATOR **Nell Soto** 32nd Senatorial District

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SENATOR SOTO'S CHILD SUPPORT BILL REQUIRES BACK PAY FOR DEADBEAT PARENTS AFTER CHILD TURNS 18**

**Sacramento** – The California State Assembly passed SB 1658, authored by Senator Nell Soto (D-Pomona). This bill gives custodial parents the right to receive court ordered child support in a timely manner to provide a healthy and stable environment for their children.

“This bill will prohibit the parent ordered by the court of law to pay child support from shunning his or her responsibility,” says Senator Soto. “This is about equity for those children entitled to child support payments from their parents. Some parents will do almost anything to avoid the system, thinking that once their child turns 18, they do not have to pay for the previous years they avoided. This bill will ensure that these children get the back pay they are entitled to even after they turn 18.”

SB 1658 prohibits a person who has been ordered by a court of law to pay child support from getting out of that obligation by “running down the clock”. This will give the custodial parent an opportunity to demonstrate that they were not paid court ordered child support and ask for the back pay plus interest, irrespective if the child already reached the age of 18.

According to statistics gathered by the New Department of Child Support Services, over two million children in California are owed over \$19 million in unpaid support. A collection has been made in only 39% of current cases.

The Association for Children for Enforcement of Support (ACE), California NOW, and the California Commission on the Status of Women support SB 1658.

“Collection efforts are often impeded by the fact that the obligor has managed to legally evade his or her responsibility to pay court-ordered support,” Elmy Bermejo, Chair of the California Commission on the Status of Women writes in a letter of support. “By hiding assets until such time as the child becomes an adult, the obligor parent attempts to run out the clock against his or her responsibility to support their child (or children).”

SB 1658 will now go back to the Senate for concurrence.

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